

Public Notice – Environmental Project

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in Virginia coastal waters.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

October 30, 2009 to November 24, 2009

TYPE OF RESPONSE:

General Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing a proposed federal action to determine if it is consistent with the Virginia Coastal Resources Management Program (VCP) established pursuant to the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The VCP seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:

DOC/NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes Amendment 16 and Framework Adjustment 44 (FW 44) to the Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Amendment 16 and Framework Adjustment 44 would result in adjustments and catch specification to the NE Multispecies FMP. Amendment 16 represents a mid-point adjustment of the rebuilding programs implemented by Amendment 13 and includes rebuilding programs for stocks newly classified as being overfished and adjustments to the existing days-at-sea (DAS) management strategy. FW 44 would implement catch specifications for all stocks for fiscal years (FYs) 2010, 2011, and 2012 and implement modified trip limits and/or differential DAS rules, as well as provide authority for the NMFS Regional Administrator to adjust such measures in-season. The NMFS has submitted a general consistency determination under § 930.36 (c) of the federal consistency regulations that applies to the NE Multispecies FMP and all routine actions carried out in accordance with the FMP. Framework adjustments to the FMP are repeated activities that adjust the use of management tools previously implemented in the FMP. NMFS finds the proposal consistent with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Resources Management Program (also called the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program).

HOW TO COMMENT:

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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